



Town of Groton, Connecticut

45 Fort Hill Road
Groton, CT 06340-4394
Town Clerk 860-441-6640
Town Manager
860-441-6630

Meeting Minutes

Representative Town Meeting

Moderator Christine Conley, Representatives Karin Adams, Jean-Claude Ambroise, Joseph Baril, Alicia Bauer, Jordan Brayman, Susan Deane-Shinbrot, Luanne E. DeMatto, John A. Espada, Robert M. Garcia, Patrice Granatosky, Dolores Harrell, Conrad F. Heede, Lynn Crockett Hubbard, Matthew G. Longino, Jim Loughlin, Lisa M. Luck, Brandon Marley, Jackie Massett, Bruce A. McDermott, Roscoe Merritt, Scott Meyer, Douglas Monaghan, Karen Morton, Kathy Neugent, Scott Newsome, Juliette M. Parker, Richard J. Pasqualini, Jr., Shawn Powers, Richard Semeraro, Bill Smith, Judith Strode, Mark Svencer, Archie C. Swindell, Fred Turnbull, Patricia Wagner, Lori A. Watrous, Ivy R. Williams and Jonathan E. Wilson

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

7:30PM

Groton Senior Center

REGULAR MEETING

A. ROLL CALL

Moderator Conley called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

33 members were present, and a quorum was declared.

Members Present: Moderator Conley, Rep. Adams, Rep. Baril, Rep. Bauer, Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, Rep. DeMatto, Rep. Garcia, Rep. Granatosky, Rep. Heede, Rep. Hubbard, Rep. Longino, Rep. Loughlin, Rep. Marley, Rep. Massett, Rep. McDermott, Rep. Merritt, Rep. Meyer, Rep. Monaghan, Rep. Morton, Rep. Neugent, Rep. Newsome, Rep. Parker, Rep. Pasqualini Jr., Rep. Powers, Rep. Semeraro, Rep. Smith, Rep. Strode, Rep. Svencer, Rep. Turnbull, Rep. Wagner, Rep. Watrous, Rep. Wilson and Rep. Brayman
Members Absent: Rep. Ambroise, Rep. Espada, Rep. Harrell, Rep. Luck, Rep. Swindell and Rep. Williams

Also present were Town Manager Mark Oefinger, Director of Office of Planning & Development Services Jon Reiner, Director of Public Works Gary Schneider, Groton Town Mayor Rita Schmidt, Town Councilor Bruce Flax, Town Clerk Betsy Moukawsher and Town Clerk Officer Assistant II Michael Thorpe.

B. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The members observed a moment of silence followed by the Salute to the Flag.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 11, 2015

A motion that the minutes be approved was made by Rep. Pasqualini, seconded by Rep. Smith.

The vote on the motion to approve February 11, 2015 minutes carried 30 in favor, 3 abstentions. (Abstaining: Reps. DeMatto, Parker and Wilson.)

D. CITIZENS' PETITIONS

Alex Waid, 76 Dartmouth Drive, Mystic, spoke in support of utilizing space in the Fitch Middle School for the Fitch Robotics Team.

E. RECEPTION OF COMMUNICATIONS

Rep. Williams notified the Town Clerk she was not able to attend the meeting.

All RTM committees have scheduled meetings to discuss their assignments for the upcoming budget sessions. Committee members should inform the chair or the Clerk's office if they are unable to attend.

The Annual Budget Meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 29. Members who have questions or concerns about the budget sessions may contact the Clerk's office

Referral 2014-0343 has been referred to Community Development to report back in May.

The new Director of Planning and Development Services Jon Reiner introduced himself to the RTM. He talked about his family, education and experience.

F. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

1. Financial report

Mr. Oefinger reported that the Fund Balance as of March 31, 2015 is approximately \$11.3million; the General Contingency balance is \$350,000; the Capital Reserve balance is \$2,361,677, an increase from the previous month's balance due to recording fees.

2. Monthly briefing

The Town Manager highlighted various items from the Town Manager's News including the selection of Betty Anne Reiter for the "2015 Outstanding Librarian Award" by the Connecticut Library Association. He also noted the citizens of Groton continue to generously support the Groton Food Locker and mentioned the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities is providing the opportunity to speak with legislative leaders on April 14, 2015.

Responding to a question from Rep. Pasqualini, Mr. Oefinger noted that any Department or Agency asking for additional funding over \$10,000 would need the approval of the RTM.

G. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

None.

H. LIAISON REPORTS

Rep. Deane-Shinbrot reported that Economic Development Commission Liaison has been working diligently with the new Director of Planning and Development Services and some of the highlights include: VHB Engagement and Camoin was selected to conduct a market analysis/zoning audit: continued work for the Airport Development Zone: redevelopment proposal for Pfizer Bldg 114, and the continued support to make the Waterfront Taxi a yearly waterfront feature.

Rep. McDermott reported for the Parks & Recreation/Trails Liaison. He stated that the National Trails Day is June 6th and the Cross Town Trail will also be held on that day. Groton Parks & Recreation is participating in the second annual Southeastern CT Park Race. Additional information on activities is in the Spring/Summer brochure. There will be no further work on the Trolley Trail Project. Work is being done on designs for a bikeway from Industrial Drive to Thomas Road and are in the planning stages of developing a hiking program for children in summer camp.

Rep. Massett stated that the BOE Town Council RTM City Council Liaison has had two meetings, discussed was the upcoming budget.

I. COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FINANCE - Chairman Granatosky

2014-0337 Contingency Transfer for the Maintenance and Operation of Fitch Middle School

CONTINGENCY TRANSFER FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION OF FITCH MIDDLE SCHOOL

WHEREAS, the Town Charter provides for transfers from the Contingency function during the year, and

WHEREAS, transfers are sometimes necessary and represent unforeseen or unexpected expenditures that were not anticipated at the time the FYE 2015 budget was adopted, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that \$56,370 be transferred from General Contingency #1074 to Public Works-Vacant Schools #1035B for costs associated with utilities and contracted/general

maintenance of the former Fitch Middle School.

Refer to RTM.

A motion was made by Rep. Granatosky, seconded by Rep. Deane-Shinbrot, that this matter be Adopted.

The motion carried unanimously

2. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SERVICES -Chairman Semeraro

No meeting: no report.

3. EDUCATION - Chairman Swindell

No meeting: no report.

4. RECREATION - Chairman Svencer

No meeting: no report.

5. PUBLIC SAFETY - Chairman Pasqualini

Rep. Pasqualini cited Referral 2014-0172 (Community Policing in Certain Neighborhoods) and noted that the primary reason that no action has been taken was due to the fact that a new Police Chief has yet to be hired. He requested to keep the referral open for a couple of months. Moderator Conley declared that this referral will be closed and that the Committee could open a new one when action could be taken.

6. PUBLIC WORKS - Chairman Heede

No meeting: no report.

7. RULES & PROCEDURES - Chairman Ambroise

No meeting: no report.

J. BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Rep. Monaghan expressed concern over a recent State Racial Profiling Report that included the Groton Police. In response, the Town Manager responded this is something Groton takes very seriously, and are presently looking at that report. He also added that anyone who desires a copy of it may contact him.

K. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

L. ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Rep. Monaghan. The Moderator adjourned the meeting at 8:38 p.m.

Attest:

*Betsy Moukawsher, Town Clerk
Clerk of the RTM*

Michael P. Thorpe, Town Clerk Office Assistant II